

Harvard's \$20,000,000

Student Wants to Forget Fortune by Hard Work

John Nicholas Brown Says He Has No Time to Think of Anything but Studies Now—Prefers Poetry to Banking, but Loves the Poor.

(Special to The Evening World.)
BOSTON, March 8.—John Nicholas Brown, Harvard's multi-millionaire student, wants to be plain John Brown.

The sole possessor of the fortune, reputed to be \$20,000,000, founded by his great-grandfather, who endowed Brown University, and handed down to him by his own father, John Nicholas Brown, and his uncle, Harold Brown, does not, in other words, want to be considered merely as a millionaire.

He would rather, he told a writer for the Boston Sunday Advertiser,



JOHN N. BROWN

five as the average fellow lives, like the things the average fellow likes and—have friends, just as the average fellow has them.

He isn't, it seems, a replica of the rich man type.

He doesn't care for banking. He prefers poetry now to bond quotations, and the fine arts appeal more to him than his big business.

John Brown inherited his great fortune Feb. 22, his twenty-first birthday, until which time it had been lying in trust.

"I haven't any idea what I shall do with all the money," he said. "While I am at school, certainly, I cannot think of it. My studies and keeping up with my classes will take all my time. In the remaining year and a half ahead of me, I shall undoubtedly work out my future course."

Meanwhile, however, it seems that the future course will be charted so that it will take the possessor of the \$20,000,000 among the ways of the poor.

"I love the poor, the middle class, all classes," he said. "I am concerned in their happiness and in their problems. When I finish my course at Harvard, it will be a great joy to me to enter more into those problems."

John Brown, who was caught by the interviewer as he left Prof. Post's class in Italian art, is a six-footer, who promises to develop into a ruggedly-built man. His manner is shy and his eyes soft, the eyes almost of a dreamer. He was trying to hurry away because since he came into possession of the money he has been besieged by scores of visitors and hundreds of letters, telegrams and telephone calls.

But, he was too polite, said the

Boston writer, and too gracious to refuse to listen to the reasoning of the reporter on why he should talk for publication. And when that was finished he responded, brief as it was, with the first interview he has yet given.

He is an only child and lives with his mother at Boston and Newport, where he received most of his early education from tutors. He has travelled all over the world, is an accomplished linguist and as a pianist has playing attracted attention even when he was a child.

Harvard College was his own choice and he matriculated there against the plans made for him by his mother, who had chosen Brown University. Athletics made no appeal to him and his extracurricular activities have been mainly in amateur dramatics. He joined the Circle of Francis and in his freshman year took part in a French play. He also writes verse, but he denies that he intends ever to become a poet.

During the war he "scrubbed decks" with fellow students in Weld Hall and was a member of the Harvard Naval Unit, doing K. P. with the rest of the young men when the regulars had other assignments and developed a reputation for reliability in emergencies.

The stir brought about by the wide publicity given to his inheritance caused him to retire from active participation in student affairs, but he expects to return to them when things become more quiet, and people can more readily accept him as John Brown, on his own merits, rather than John Nicholas Brown, the multi-millionaire.

"Democratic—of course I want to be democratic," he answered, in reply to such a question. "I want to live as the average fellow lives. Just because I have a little more in worldly goods than the next fellow does not mean I deserve greater consideration or notice. I do not want to be pursued and made to feel that my heritage is an unfortunate thing. A fellow can't help feeling that way, you know, when he is pointed out on the street and in public places."

"It is one thing to be noticed because you have a great fortune and quite another thing to be distinguished for your good works and deeds."

"Naturally, one who occupies a position of wealth can do much good. I hope, when the proper time comes, to contribute my share."

So, John Nicholas Brown isn't worrying now about the \$20,000,000. Indeed, he doesn't know how much the estate amounts to.

"Please," he pleaded at the termination of the interview, "take a couple of zeros off that twenty million. You really don't think the estate is worth all of that, do you?"

"That is the impression," the re-

porter answered. "It is not so, really," was the reply. "Do take off a couple of zeros." But, a few integers more or less in John Nicholas Brown's fortune do not stand in the way of his wanting to be plain John Brown who would rather

earn his way into public notice by his deeds than by the extent of his wealth. It was rumored the other day that Brown intends to become a banker, but he denied this. "I am more interested in poetry, literature and the fine arts," he said.

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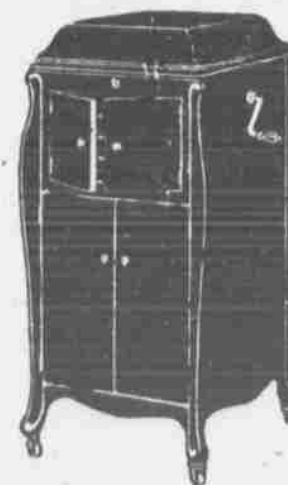
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